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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

*OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR*

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Proposed statement:

In our statement of 11 February 1976 concerning CIA relations with newsmen and churchmen, we recognized that the American media had a special status under our Constitution and in order to avoid any appearance of improper use by the Agency of the media we announced a policy of not entering into any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station. In the same manner, we wish to clarify that the CIA will not knowingly enter into any paid or contractual relationship with a so-called "freelance writer" when such writer contributes ~~the~~ material that could be construed as politically influencing the American people to any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network, or publisher.

ORG 1 National  
News Council

↳ WASHINGTON Inde-  
pendent writers

CIA 3.01.3 Journalists

(orig under Natl. News  
Council)



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

11 February 1976

Office of the Assistant to the Director  
(703) 351-7676  
(703) 687-6931 (night)

STATEMENT

Over the years, the CIA has had relationships with individuals in many walks of American life. These relationships, many of a voluntary and unpaid nature, have reflected the desire of Americans to help their country. Such relationships have been conducted by the Agency with the clear intent of furthering its foreign intelligence mission and have not been aimed at influencing or improperly acting on any American institution.

Genuine concern has recently been expressed about CIA relations with newsmen and churchmen. The Agency does not believe there has been any impropriety on its part in the limited use made of persons connected in some way with American media, church and missionary organizations. Nonetheless, CIA recognizes the special status afforded these institutions under our Constitution and in order to avoid any appearance of improper use by the Agency, the

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DCI has decided on a revised policy to govern Agency relations with these groups:

-- Effective immediately, CIA will not enter into any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station.

-- As soon as feasible, the Agency will bring existing relationships with individuals in these groups into conformity with this new policy.

-- CIA has no secret paid or contractual relationship with any American clergyman or missionary. This practice will be continued as a matter of policy.

CIA recognizes that members of these groups may wish to provide information to the CIA on matters of foreign intelligence of interest to the U.S. Government. The CIA will continue to welcome information volunteered by such individuals.

It is Agency policy not to divulge the names of cooperating Americans. In this regard CIA will not make public, now or in the future, the names of any cooperating journalists or churchmen.

CIA 3.06.3 Journalists  
Raskin, BARBARA  
Orig Washington Inde-  
pendent Writers  
(orig under Journalists)

July 6, 1976

Miss Barbara Raskin  
President  
Washington Independent Writers  
1057 National Press Building  
Washington, D. C. 20045

Dear Miss Raskin,

I am responding to your letter of June 7 to the Director. Thank you for bringing to our attention the text of the resolution adopted by your organization.

The policy set out in the statement of February 11 represents a voluntary limitations on the part of the Central Intelligence Agency of perfectly legitimate intelligence functions. This action was undertaken because of the constitutional concerns expressed by the representatives of American news media, and because we are determined to avoid even the appearance of any improper use of journalists by the Agency.

We recently had occasion to discuss this matter with representatives of the National News Council. I refer you to a press report of that meeting (attached), and suggest you may wish to consult the Council on their assessment of our position.

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director  
of Central Intelligence

kss

Enc. - AP Story  
dated 27 Jun 76

Washington Independent Writers  
1057 National Press Building  
Washington, D.C. 20045  
(202) 347-0700

June 7, 1976

The Honorable George Bush  
Director of Central Intelligence  
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bush:

On Tuesday, June 2, 1976, at the annual meeting of the Washington Independent Writers, the membership passed the attached resolution.

The members of the Executive Board of Directors of the Washington Independent Writers welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter which is of vital importance to us. The Board of Directors include Jane Stein, Paul Dickson, David Wise, Harvey Katz, Marcia Feldman, Joe Goulden, Phyllis Richman, Jean Carper, Charles Conconi, Milton Viorst, Robert Westgate and myself.

Thank you very much for your attention and response to this resolution.

Sincerely yours,

*Barbara Raskin*  
Barbara Raskin, President

Washington Independent Writers

1057 National Press Building

Washington, D.C. 20045

(202) 347-0700

WHEREAS, on February 11, 1976, the Central Intelligence Agency announced that it would no longer pay any full-or-part-time correspondent accredited to the United States news media; and

WHEREAS, the Final Report of the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities disclosed that less than half of the fifty journalists or news media employees working for CIA will be affected by the new CIA policy, because it does not apply to "freelance contributors" abroad; and

WHEREAS, all independent, unaffiliated writers are potentially suspect when any are used by CIA for covert activities or espionage;

RESOLVED that the Executive Board of the Washington Independent Writers be directed to write to George Bush, the Director of Central Intelligence, to

(1) Protest the continued use of journalists as spies since, by casting suspicion on all independent journalists and writers, the practice inhibits their ability to report, reduces the flow of information to the public, and therefore constitutes a clear violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

(2) To demand, therefore, that CIA immediately end its use of independent writers or journalists for intelligence purposes, or conversely, the use of CIA officers posing or acting as journalists or writers.

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